

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

SAM-01 EB-07 AID-05 ACDA-05 /082 W

----- 105021

R 300425Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9887

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMCONSUL MADRAS

AMEVXASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EAIR, PK, IN

SUBJECT: BHUTTO/GANDHI CORRESPONDENCE: GOP REAFFIRMS

DEDUCATION TO SIMLA SPIRIT, EARLY CIVIL

AVIATION TALKS

REF: A. NEW DELHI 4668

B. ISLAMABAD 2970

1. SUMMARY: MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIAL SUPPLIED
TEXT OF PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO'S APRIL 25 LETTER TO
INDIAN PREMIER INDIRA GANDHI IN WHICH HE REITERATED
GOP'S RESOLVE TO REDUCE INDO-PAK TENSIONS AND PROCEED
WITH FURTHER NORMALIZATION STEPS. IN THE BRIEF,
MODERATELY PHRASED LETTER, BHUTTO REPEATED EARLIER
PUBLIC STATEMENTS REGRETTING GOI'S ADVERSE REACTION TO
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THE CHANGE IN US ARMS SUPPLY POLICY. HE ARGUED THAT

PAKISTAN'S EFFORTS TOWARDS SELF-DEFENSE WERE IN NO WAY
A THREAT TO INDIA AND THAT GOP HAD NO DESIRE FOR ARMS

RACE WHICH NEITHER NATION COULD AFFORD. HIS SHORT
COMMENTS ON KASHMIR MERELY DEFENDED LEGITIMACY OF PAK
PUBLIC'S "CONCERN" OVER IMPLICATION OF EVENTS THERE AND
REITERATED GOP POSITION ON PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINA-
TION. HE WELCOMED MRS. GANDHI'S SUGGESTIONS RESTZBUILT-IN
SAFEGUARDS TO REDUCE TENSION" AND SAID THAT HE HOPED
FOR EARLY BILATERAL CIVIL AVIATION TALKS AND ABATEMENT
IN HOSTILE PROPAGANDA. MFA OFFICIAL WHO PROVIDED
LETTER REPORTED THAT GOP STILL HOPING TO BE ABLE TO
SEND CIVIL AVIATION NEGOTIATING TEAM TO NEW DELHI ON
MAY 12TH OR SOON THEREAFTER. OFFICIAL CONFIDED GOP
DISAPPOINTED OVER CONTINUING CRITICISM OF PAKISTAN
COMING FROM GOI AND INDIAN MEDIA. END SUMMARY.

2. MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR SOUTH ASIA, HAYAT MEHDI,
INFORMED EMBOFF THAT GOP HAD DESPATCHED ON APRIL 25 A
REPLY TO MRS. GANDHI'S LETTER OF MARCH 20 (REF A). THE
TEXT OF LZQ BRIEF, MODERATELY PHRASED LETTER IS GIVEN
BELOW. MEHDI CONFIDED THAT GOP HAD NOT YET RESPONDED
TO INDIAN PROPOSAL FOR MAY 12 CIVIL AVIATION TALKS IN
NEW DELHI (REF B) SINCE FOREIGN MINISTER AGHA SHAHI
HAS OTHER COMMITMENTS THAT DAY. MEHDI SAID HE PREFERR
59 58:(59 5#3 12TH DATE IF AT ALL POSSIBLE IN ORDER
TO AVOID FURTHER DELAYS, AND TO THAT END GOP ATTEMPTING
RESCHEDULE SHAHI'S APPOINTMENTS. ALTERNATE WOULD BE TO
PROPOSE THAT MEETINGS TAKE PLACE BETWEEN MAY 15TH AND
20TH.

AQN DIRGEN SAID GOP DISAPPOINTED OVER CONTINUING
CRITICISM OF PAKISTAN COMING FROM GOI OFFICIALS AND
MEDIA. HE HAD JUST LEARNED THAT SWARAN SINGH HAD
MADE CRITICAL REFERENCE TO VISIT TO PAKISTAN OF CHINESE
VICE PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN AND HAD WARNED THAT IN CASE
OF ANOTHER INDO/PAK CONFLICT IT WOULD NOT BE AT PLACE
OF GOP "CHOOSING". GOP CONCERNED OVER CONTINUING
STRIDENCY OF GOI CRITICISM OVER CHANGE IN US ARMS
SUPPLY POLICY, RAISING THE "THREAT" FROM PAKISTAN AND
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FROM "THE SEA" IN ORDER TODEFEND THE EXTENT OF ITS OWN
DEFENSE EXPENDITURES. NEVERTHELESS, MEHDI HOPED THAT
CIVIL AIR TALKS COULD GET BACK ON THE TRACK AND PROVIDE
OPPORTUNITY FOR CONTINUATION OF INDO/PAK DIALOGUE.

4. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO'S
APRIL 25 LETTER TO INDIAN PRIME MINISTER MRS. GANDHI:
QUOTE:

1. DEAR MADAM PRIME MINISTER,
I WISH TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR REPLY OF 20 MARCH 1975
TO MY LETTER OF 25 FEBRUARY 1975.
2. MY LETTER PLEDGES THE RESOLVE OF THE GOVERNMENT
OF PAKISTAN TO PROMOTE THE SIMLA SPIRIT. IT IS,
THEREFORE, A MATTER OF SATISFACTION TO READ THAT
YOUR ADMINISTRATION IS LIKEWISE DETERMINED TO
REMOVE ALL IMPEDIMENTS THAT MAY INHIBIT THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SIMLA AGREEMENT.
3. IT WAS,
AND IT STILL REMAINS, OUR HOPE THAT
SUCH AN ATTITUDE WOULD GOVERN THE PRONOUNCEMENTS
OF YOUR GOVERNMENT AND MEDIA. THE ADVERSE REACTION
IN INDIA TO THE LIFTING OF THE UNITED STATES ARMS
EMBARGO WOULD HAVE BEEN PERHAPS UNDERSTANDABLE
IF THE DECISION DISCRIMINATED AGAINST INDIA AND
BENEFITED US FROM THE COURSE OF DIALOGUE
AND NEGOTIATION OR HAD RESULTED IN ANY CHANGE IN
OUR SETTLED POLICY TO CONTINUE STEADFASTLY TO
WORK FOR DURABLE PEACE IN THE SUB-CONTINENT.
4. YOU WILL NO DOUBT RECALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES
WHICH LED THE UNITED STATES TO IMPOSE THE EMBARGO.
SINCE THEN WE HAVE EXTENDED RECOGNITION TO
BANGLADESH AS A SOVEREIGN STATE AND HAVE CONCLUDED
AND SIGNED SEVERAL AGREEMENTS WITH YOUR COUNTRY.
WOULD IT NOT HAVE BEEN CONTRARY TO LOGIC AND
REASON FOR THE EMBARGO TO CONTINUE WHEN THE EVENTS
WHICH LED TO ITS IMPOSITION IN THE FIRST PLACE ARE
SO MUCH BEHIND US?
5. IF I SPOKE OF THE DISPARITY IN THE MATTER OF
DEFENSE CAPABILITY BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, IT

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ACTION NEA-09

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

SAM-01 EB-07 AID-05 ACDA-05 /082 W

----- 106082

R 300425Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9888
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY DACCA
RUSBLKXAMEMBASSY KABUL 4790
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMCONSUL MADRAS
47 ?-3/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 7742
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WAS ALSO TO UNDERSCORE THE POINT THAT, GIVEN ITS
PREPONDERANT MILITARY STRENGTH, INDIA HAD NO
REASON TO EXPECT A THREAT FROM PAKISTAN. IN SUCH
A DISPARATE SITUATION, HOWEVER, IT IS ONLY NATURAL
THAT THE RELATIVELY SMALLER COUNTRY WOULD CAST
ABOUT FOR MEANS TO ASSURE ITS OWN DEFENCE AND
SECURITY. THIS IMPULSE OPERATES ALMOST INDEPENDENTLY
OF THE GEOPOLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS TO WHICH YOU
HAVE ALLUDED IN YOUR LETTER. EVEN IF THESE
CONSIDERATIONS WERE HELD TO BE OF ABSOLUTE VALIDITY,
THEY WOULD STILL NOT ADD UP TO THE PROPOSITION
THAT PAKISTAN SHOULD BE LEFT MILITARILY HELPLESS.
WE IN PAKISTAN, BE ADOPTING MEASURES TO ATTAIN
A NEEDED DEGREE OF OFFENSIVE CAPABILITY CERTAINLY
DO NOT HAVE ANY DESIRE TO GENERATE AN ARMS RACE
IN THE REGION. WE KNOW THE FUTILITY OF SUCH AN
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ENDEAVOUR. NOR ARE WE PREPARED TO PAY THE PRICE
IN HUMAN MISERY THAT SUCH AN ATTEMPT WILL ENTAIL.
6. THE ACCORD REACHED BETWEEN YOU AND SHAIKH
ABDULLAH HAS CAUSED CONCERN TO OUR PEOPLE BECAUSE
THEY HAD HOPED THAT ANY STEPS YOU CHOSE TO TAKE
IN THIS REGARD WOULD BE IN ACCORD WITH THE SIMLA
AGREEMENT. IT, THEREFORE, INEVITABLY FOLLOWS
THAT A LINE OF PEACE IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR CANNOT
BE ONE THAT IS ARBITRARILY IMPOSED. IT CAN ONLY
BE A LINE THAT TAKES INTO ACCOUNT OUR RECOGNISED
POSITION ON THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION -
A PRINCIPLE TO WHICH BOTH OUR GOVERNMENTS ARE
COMMITTED.
7. I WELCOME YOUR SUGGESTION TO EXPLORE WITH US
MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE METHODS OF BUILT-IN SAFEGUARDS
TO REDUCE TENSIONS AND TO AVOID THE LIKELIHOOD
OF FUTURE CONFLICTS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. I
HAD ALREADY, IN MY LETTER OF 25 FEBRUARY, INDICATED

OUR DESIRE TO SEE PEACE ESTABLISHED IN THE SUB-CONTINENT ON THE UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE. I REITERATE MY HOPE THAT ON THESE FOUNDATIONS WE CAN ERECT AN EDIFICE OF DURABLE PEACE BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES.

8. IT IS AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THAT WE ARE STUDYING THE RECENT PROPOSAL OF YOUR GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE ARRIVAL IN NEW DELHI OF A CIVIL AVIATION TEAM FROM PAKISTAN. WE ARE ANXIOUS THAT THESE TALKS TAKE PLACE AS SOON AS MUTUALLY CONVENIENT SO THAT THE ATTEMPT TO REMOVE ONE MORE IRRITANT FROM OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS CAN GET UNDERWAY.

9. LIKE YOU, WE CANNOT ALSO GAIN SAY THE DESIRABILITY, AND INDEED THE URGENCY, OF BOTH COUNTRIES DESISTING FROM HOSTILE PUBLIC POSTURES. WE REITERATE OUR FIRM WILLINGNESS TO DISCHARGE THE OBLIGATIONS UNDERTAKEN BY US IN THIS REGARD. IN FACT WE HAVE, ONCE AGAIN, IMPRESSED UPON OUR INFORMATION MEDIA THE IMPERATIVE NEED FOR REFRAINING FROM HOSTILE PROPAGANDA AS AGREED TO BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS.

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10. RECENTLY, WE HAVE HAD THE OCCASION TO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF YOUR AUTHORITIES TO SEVERAL INSTANCES OF HOSTILE PROPAGANDA AGAINST PAKISTAN. IT IS MY HOPE THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE THE STEPS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT SUCH INSTANCES DO NOT OCCUR.

11. IN CONCLUSION, MADAM PRIME MINISTER, I WISH TO REASSURE YOU OF OUR SINCERE DESIRE TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE THAT WOULD BE CONDUCIVE TO CONSTRUCTIVE AND MEANINGFUL STEPS BEING TAKEN SO THAT THE PROCESS OF NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES CAN CONTINUE Apace.

WITH BEST REGARDS.

YOURS SINCERELY,

(ZULFIKAR ALI BHUTTO) UNQUOTE.

BYROADE

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